

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9744

S E C R E T TOKYO 1544

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OVIP JA

SUBJ: FON MIN OHIRA'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 21225

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN OHIRA'S OFFICE ON BASIS REFTEL, WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS.

2. OHIRA WARMLY RECIPROCATED SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED PARA ONE REFTEL. HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SECRETARY AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, INTENDS TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY HIS PLANS TO VISIT US AGAIN IN MAY. HIS OFFICE ADDED THAT MAJOR SUBJECTS OHIRA WILL WISH TO DISCUSS IN FEBRUARY MEETING INCLUDE ENERGY, MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, CHINA, KOREAN PENINSULA, AND JAPANESE INTERNAL POLITICS.

3. OHIRA'S SUGGESTED AGENDA COINCIDED ALMOST EXACTLY WITH SUBJECTS THAT EMBASSY BELIEVES COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED (REQUESTED REFTEL) AND WHICH FOLLOW WITH EXPLANATORY COMMENTS.

(A) GOJ RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD. THIS TOPIC, ASIDE FROM BEING USEFUL COROLLARY TO MORE GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN ENERGY CONFERENCE, SECRET

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IS PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN WAKE OF MINISTER YAMANI'S VISIT TO TOKYO AND KOSAKA MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST. AS EMBASSY REPORTED, OHIRA HAS BEEN HOLDING LINE WITHIN GOJ AGAINST THOSE (CHIEFLY

DEP. PRIMIN MIKI AND MITI MIN NAKASONE) WHO WOULD TILT JAPANESE POLICY CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF ARABS. A FRANK TALK ON THIS SUBJECT COULD PROVIDE MORE CONCRETE INFORMATION THAN IS NOW AVAILABLE TO US ON WHAT GOJ SHORT AND LONG-TERM INTENTIONS TOWARD ARABS REALLY ARE. IN THIS CONNECTION, SECRETARY MAY WISH TO GIVE OHIRA SUMMARY OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND SHARE HIS PERSPECTIVES ON STRUCTURE FOR PEACE.

(B) TRILATERAL DECLARATION. OHIRA WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME SECRETARY'S ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY, AND COULD IN TURN DISCUSS FIRST FRUITS OF NEWLY OPENED CHANNEL BETWEEN JAPAN AND EC VIA FRG (TOKYO 1271 AND STATE 22520).

(C) CHINA. OHIRA HAS BEEN UNDER FIRE WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY BECAUSE OF HIS FORMULA TO RESOLVE CIVIL AVIATION ISSUE WITH PRC (TOKYO 1495). HE HAS MADE HEAVY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THIS ISSUE BECAUSE SUCCESS COULD SOLVE IMPASSE WHICH NOW IMPEDES PROGRESS IN SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS. OHIRA WILL WANT TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR BOTH JAPAN AND US TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH CHINA, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF EVIDENCE SUGGESTING CONTINUING POWER STRUGGLES WITHIN PRC LEADERSHIP.

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS TWO ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IF TIME PERMITS:

(A) IMPLICATIONS FOR DETENTE FLOWING FROM US EXPERIENCES WITH SOVIETS DURING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, PREPARATIONS FOR SALT II, ETC.

(B) OHIRA'S ASSESSMENT OF PRIMIN TANAKA'S RECENT VISIT TO AWEAN COUNTRIES.

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5. FINALLY, OHIRA MAY POSSIBLY RAISE MATTER OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, ALONG LINES OF PRIMIN TANAKA'S REMARKS TO CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER (TOKYO 1496).
SHOESMITH

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